

DSSTM

(Digital Satellite System)

USSB Programming

Basic Channels (6)

Lifetime
Nickelodeon/Nick at Nite
MTV
VH-1
Comedy Central
All News Channel

Premium Channels (14)

HBO East/West
HBO 2 East/West
HBO 3
Showtime East/West
Showtime 2
The Movie Channel East/West
Cinemax East/West
Cinemax 2
FLIX

***Includes all channels with which USSB will start. Expected future compression improvements should allow for additional channels/services. Current plans include public service, free advertiser supported services and special interest programming**

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 24, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are aware of the letter sent to you on June 15, 1994 by several Members of Congress, addressing Section 19, the program access provision, of the Cable Act of 1992. We believe that letter fundamentally misstates the goal of Section 19, which was intended only to address exclusive practices by cable operators. Non-cable operations, such as direct broadcast satellite (DBS) are not covered by Section 19.

As the title of the Cable Act clearly indicates, the legislation specifically was designed to address the problems suffered by the public as a result of cable's monopolistic practices. Many of our constituents complained about cable operator's abuses of their power.

A key provision of the Act is Section 19, which addresses cable programming practices. It precludes cable operators from entering into exclusive contracts with vertically integrated cable programmers in areas not served by cable. It permits exclusive contracts in areas served by cable, if the FCC determines that such contracts are in the public interest. We submit, however, that a search of the entire Cable Act and its legislative history will confirm that only program contracts involving cable operators were intended to fall within the province of Section 19 and the Act as a whole.

Moreover, a fundamental purpose intended to be served by Section 19 is the promotion of technologies that can compete with cable operations. In this regard, competitive exclusivity in DBS operations is essential if a non-cable operator with a small number of channels is to be able to compete with another operator offering more, but different channels. Denying competitive exclusivity could have the perverse effect of creating a monopoly within DBS by limiting an operator's ability to grow, compete with cable, and offer unique services to the customer.

We believe the Commission's initial conclusions on programming exclusivity -- that Section 19 applies only to cable operators -- were correct, and the rules adopted by the FCC thus properly implement Section 19. We understand the Attorneys General of 45 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Department of Justice, and Judge John Sprizzo, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, all agree that the Cable Act of 1992 does not prohibit exclusive contracts by DBS providers and programmers.

We have attached material which provides graphic illustration of the fact that the FCC's present rules will make extensive programming available to DBS customers.

We appreciate your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,



Bob Packwood
U.S. Senate



Dan Coats
U.S. Senate

DSSTTM

(Digital Satellite System)

DirecTv Programming

Basic Channels

A&E
Black Entertainment
Television
Cartoon Network
Country Music Television
CNN
CNN International
CNBC
Court TV
C-Span
C-Span 2
Discovery
E!
ESPN
Family Channel
Headline News
The Learning Channel
Much Music
SCI-FI Channel
Shopping
Travel Channel
The Weather Channel
TBS-Superstation
The Nashville Network
Turner Classic Movies
TNT
USA Network

Premium Channels

The Disney Channel East/West
Encore
Encore 2/Love Stories
Encore 3/Western
Encore 4/Tweens
Encore 5/Mystery
Encore 6/Action
Encore 7/True Stories & Drama
Playboy Channel

Pay-Per-View Movies

*Approximately 40+ Channels
with current hit films from:*
Paramount Pictures
Columbia Pictures
Sony Pictures Classics
TriStar Pictures
Turner MGM Film Library
Universal Pictures
Touchstone Pictures
Hollywood Pictures
Walt Disney Pictures
Warner Bros
Miramax Films

Pay-Per-View Sports

Up to 40 channels with
events expected from all
major sports leagues

Special Interest

Golf Channel
CBC Newsworld International
Physicians Television Network
Bloomberg Direct Financial
Music Choice (Digital Audio)
TRIO
Movie Preview Channel
Sports Preview Channel
Consumer Information

***List includes all DirecTv programming announced as of June 28, 1994**

DSS™

(Digital Satellite System)

USSB Programming

Basic Channels (6)

Lifetime
Nickelodeon/Nick at Nite
MTV
VH-1
Comedy Central
All News Channel

Premium Channels (14)

HBO East/West
HBO 2 East/West
HBO 3
Showtime East/West
Showtime 2
The Movie Channel East/West
Cinemax East/West
Cinemax 2
FLIX

***Includes all channels with which USSB will start. Expected future compression improvements should allow for additional channels/services. Current plans include public service, free advertiser supported services and special interest programming**

United States Senate

July 6, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am aware of the letter sent to you on June 15, 1994 by several Members of Congress, addressing Section 19, the program access provision, of the Cable Act of 1992. I believe that letter fundamentally misstates the goal of Section 19, which was intended only to address exclusive practices by cable operators. Non-cable operations, such as direct broadcast satellite (DBS), are not covered by Section 19.

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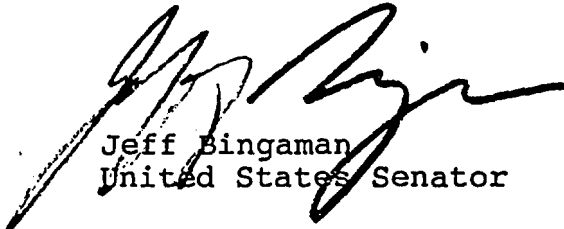
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Page 2

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I appreciate your consideration of these views.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator

JB/mss



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

July 6, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

We are aware of the letter sent to you on June 15, 1994 by several Members of Congress, addressing Section 19, the program access provision, of the Cable Act of 1992. We believe that letter fundamentally misstates the goal of Section 19, which was intended only to address exclusive practices by cable operators. Non-cable operations, such as direct broadcast satellite (DBS) are not covered by Section 19.

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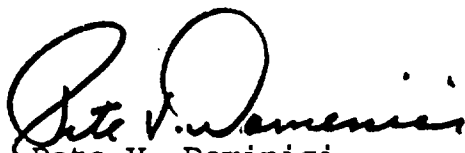
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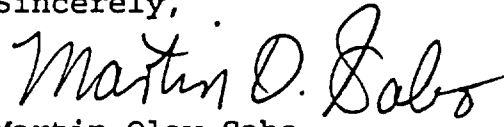
Moreover, a fundamental purpose intended to be served by Section 19 is the promotion of technologies that can compete with cable operations. In this regard, competitive exclusivity in DBS operations is essential if a non-cable operator with a small number of channels is to be able to compete with another operator offering more, but different channels. Denying competitive exclusivity could have the perverse effect of creating a monopoly within DBS by limiting an operator's ability to grow, compete with cable, and offer unique services to the customer.


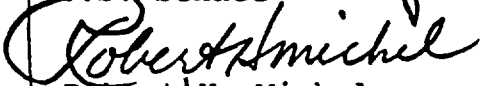
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We have attached material which provides graphic illustration of the fact that the FCC's present rules will make extensive programming available to DBS customers.

We appreciate your consideration of our views.



Pete V. Dominici
U.S. Senate


Sincerely,

Martin Olav Sabo
U.S. House of Representatives


Dave Durenberger
U.S. Senate

Robert H. Michel
U.S. House of Representatives


Bruce F. Vento
U.S. House of Representatives


Bill Richardson
U.S. House of Representatives


John Edward Porter
U.S. House of Representatives


Jim Ramstad
U.S. House of Representatives

SENT BY:

7-14-94 : 2:49PM ;

7038120486;# 2/ 2
JUL 13 1994

AL SWIFT
201 FEDERAL BUILDING
EVERETT, WA 98201

DISTRICT OFFICES:

300 FEDERAL BUILDING
BELLINGHAM, WA 98225
(206) 733-4500

201 FEDERAL BUILDING
EVERETT, WA 98201
(206) 262-3168

TOLL FREE
1-800-582-1385

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4702

1502 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4702
(202) 225-2605

July 8, 1994

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

CHAIRMAN,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND POWER

COMMITTEE ON
HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

CHAIRMAN,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Reed Hunt
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hunt:

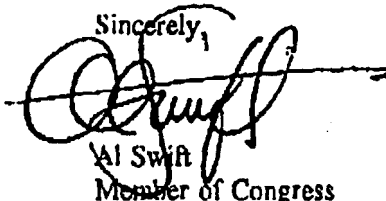
I am writing you concerning the issue of program exclusivity as it pertains to Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) services. I was an active proponent of the purposes of the 1992 Cable Act, and in particular, the goal of creating viable and robust DBS services to offer competition to existing cable monopolies.

As you know --and as the Act's title clearly indicates--the legislation was specifically designed to address the problems suffered by the public as a result of monopolistic practices by certain large cable companies. Competition by DBS was intended to be part of the public's solution, never part of the problem. Therefore it is my belief that a search of the Act and the legislative history will confirm that only program contracts involving cable operators are intended to fall within the province of the 1992 Cable Act.

In that regard, I want to state my support for the Commission's conclusion in its "First Report and Order" in MM Docket No. 92.265. I believe the Commission properly construed the exclusivity provisions of Section 19 as applicable to cable operators only. And it is my understanding that the Department of Justice, and the attorneys general of 45 states also agree that there is no bar in the Cable Act of 1992 to exclusive contracts by DBS providers and programmers.

Thank you for your consideration of my views on this matter.

Sincerely,



Al Swift
Member of Congress

AS/lbk

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0529
(202) 225-3878

DISTRICT OFFICE
8436 WEST 3rd STREET
SUITE 600
LOS ANGELES, CA 90048-4183
(213) 881-1040

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0529

HENRY A. WAXMAN
29TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

August 16, 1994

ENERGY AND COMMERCE
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
PHILIP M. SCHLUD
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing in support of the Federal Communications Commission's conclusion in its "First Report and Order" in MM Docket No. 92-265 regarding exclusive program contracts with noncable distributors.

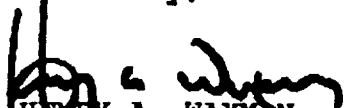
To foster healthy competition in program distribution services, Section 19 of the 1992 Cable Act forbids exclusive arrangements between cable operators and vertically integrated programmers in areas not served by cable. This section of the law was drafted to address the anticompetitive practices of cable companies, and not potential exclusive agreements by noncable distributors.

Although exclusive contracts can present dangers in the marketplace, they do not automatically pose an inherent danger to diversity and competition and, in certain circumstances, can be employed positively as a guard against monopolistic practices. Without the ability to distinguish their programming from larger competitors, small rivals would not survive and consumers would suffer the effects of the resulting lack of competition. Such an outcome would directly contradict the express purposes for which the 1992 Cable Act was passed. Selectively approved exclusive contracts could mitigate this impact. If these contracts are authorized, however, great care must be taken to ensure against long-term anti-competitive effects.

Thank you for your consideration of my views on this matter.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,


HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1302

August 19, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Reed:

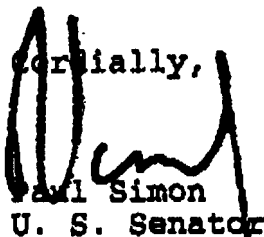
I have been hearing from people on both sides of the controversy regarding Section 19 of the Cable Act.

I am probably the least informed person writing to you on this.

I have looked over the correspondence and discussed this twice with my staff. It seems to me the enclosed letter from Jeff Bingaman to you merits serious consideration.

I have worked with Jeff on a great many things, and I know he does not enter these things lightly.

I wish you the best.

Sincerely,

Paul Simon
U. S. Senator

PS/jw

Enc.

COPY

United States Senate

July 6, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am aware of the letter sent to you on June 15, 1994 by several Members of Congress, addressing Section 19, the program access provision, of the Cable Act of 1992. I believe that letter fundamentally misstates the goal of Section 19, which was intended only to address exclusive practices by cable operators. Non-cable operations, such as direct broadcast satellite (DBS), are not covered by Section 19.

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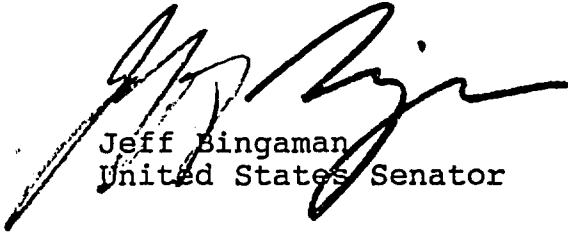
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Page 2

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I appreciate your consideration of these views.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator

JB/mss

EXHIBIT 2

	PROGRAMMERS	DIRECTV	USSB	PRIMESTAR
NETWORKS*	PRIMETIME 24 (ABC, CBS, NBC)	■		
	FOX & PBS	▲		
	THE WORKS (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, PBS)			●
PREMIUM	A&E	■		
	ALL NEWS CHANNEL		■	
	CARTOON	■		●
	CMTV	■		●
	CNBC	■		
	CNN	■		●
	CNN INTERNATIONAL	▲		
	COMEDY CENTRAL		■	
	DISCOVERY	■		●
	DISNEY	■		●
	ENCORE	■		●
	ENCORE MULTIPLEX	▲		●
	FAMILY CHANNEL	■		●
	FLIX		■	
	HBO/CINEMAX MULTIPLEX		■	●
	HEADLINE NEWS	■		●
	LIFETIME		■	
	MTV/VH-1		■	
	MUCHMUSIC	■		
	NASHVILLE	■		●
	NICKELODEON		■	
	PLAYBOY	■		
	SHOWTIME/TMC MULTIPLEX		■	
	TURNER CLASSIC MOVIES	■		●
	USA	■		●
PAY PER VIEW	COLUMBIA PICTURES	■		
	HOLLYWOOD PICTURES	■		
	MIRAMAX FILMS	■		
	PARAMOUNT PICTURES	■		
	PRIME CINEMA (3)			●
	SONY PICTURE CLASSICS	■		
	TOUCHSTONE PICTURES	■		
	TRISTAR PICTURES	■		
	TURNER MGM FILMS	■		
	UNIVERSAL PICTURES	■		
	WALT DISNEY PICTURES	■		
	WARNER BROS.	■		
SPECIAL INTEREST	COURT TV	■		
	C-SPAN 1	■		●
	E! ENTERTAINMENT	■		
	LEARNING CHANNEL	■		●
	NEWSWORLD INT'L	▲		
	PHYSICIAN'S TV NETWORK	▲		
	SCI-FI	■		
	TRAVEL	▲		
	TRIO	▲		
SUPERSTATIONS	WEATHER	■		●
	FREE SUPERSTATIONS		■	
	TBS	■		●
	TNT	■		●
	WGN			●
SPORTS	WPIX			●
	ESPN/ESPN ALTERNATE	■		
	GOLF	▲		
	PRIME NETWORKS			●
	SATELLITE SPORTS NETWORKS**			●
OTHER SERVICES	BLOOMBERG DIRECT BUSINESS NEWS	■		
	MUSIC CHOICE	▲		
	PRIME AUDIO			●
	TV ASIA	▲		
	TV JAPAN (Japanese and English)			●
	X*PRESS			●

* Available in "white" areas only.

** Includes 14 regional sports networks.

■ = DirecTv/USSB Programming on DBS-1 (subject to change).

▲ = DirecTv Programming on DBS-2 (subject to change).

● = Primestar Programming on Satcom K-1.

EXHIBIT 3

PROVISIONS CONCERNING EXCLUSIVE CONTRACTS

IN THE CABLE ACT

Areas Unserved By Cable

"(C) prohibit practices, understandings, arrangements, and activities, including exclusive contracts for satellite cable programming or satellite broadcast programming between a cable operator and a satellite cable programming vendor or satellite broadcast programming vendor, that prevent a multichannel video programming distributor from obtaining such programming from any satellite cable programming vendor in which a cable operator has an attributable interest or any satellite broadcast programming vendor in which a cable operator has an attributable interest for distribution to persons in areas not served by a cable operator as of the date of enactment of this section; and

Areas Served By Cable

"(D) with respect to distribution to persons in areas served by a cable operator, prohibit exclusive contracts for satellite cable programming or satellite broadcast programming between a cable operator and a satellite cable programming vendor in which a cable operator has an attributable interest or a satellite broadcast programming vendor in which a cable operator has an attributable interest, unless the Commission determines (in accordance with paragraph (4)) that such contract is in the public interest.

IN THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Areas Unserved By Cable

With regard to areas not passed by a cable system, the regulations required by the House amendment prohibit exclusive contracts and other arrangements between a cable operator and a vendor which prevent a multichannel video programming distributor from obtaining programming from a satellite cable programming vendor affiliated with a cable operator.

Areas Served By Cable

With regard to areas served by cable operators, the FCC's regulations must prohibit exclusive contracts for satellite cable programming between a cable operator and a satellite cable programming vendor affiliated with a cable interest, unless the FCC determines such a contract is in the public interest. In determining whether such an exclusive contract is in the public interest, the FCC shall consider the effect of the contract on competition in local and national multichannel video programming distribution markets, the effect on competition from multichannel video programming distribution technologies other than cable, the effect on the ability to attract capital investment in new satellite cable programming, the effect on the diversity of programming in the multichannel video programming distribution market, and the duration of the exclusive contract. The House amendment's provisions limiting exclusive contracts in areas served by cable operators expire in 10 years. Exclusive contracts for satellite cable programming that were entered into on or before June 1, 1990 for geographic areas not served by cable operators are grandfathered under the House amendment.

IN THE FCC REGULATIONS

Areas Unserved By Cable

(c) *Exclusive contracts and practices.*—
(1) *Unserved areas.* No cable operator shall engage in any practice or activity or enter into any understanding or arrangement, including exclusive contracts, with a satellite cable programming vendor or satellite broadcast programming vendor for satellite cable programming or satellite broadcast programming that prevents a multichannel video programming distributor from obtaining such programming from any satellite cable programming vendor in which a cable operator has an attributable interest, or any satellite broadcast programming vendor in which a cable operator has an attributable interest for distribution to persons in areas not served by a cable operator as of October 5, 1992.

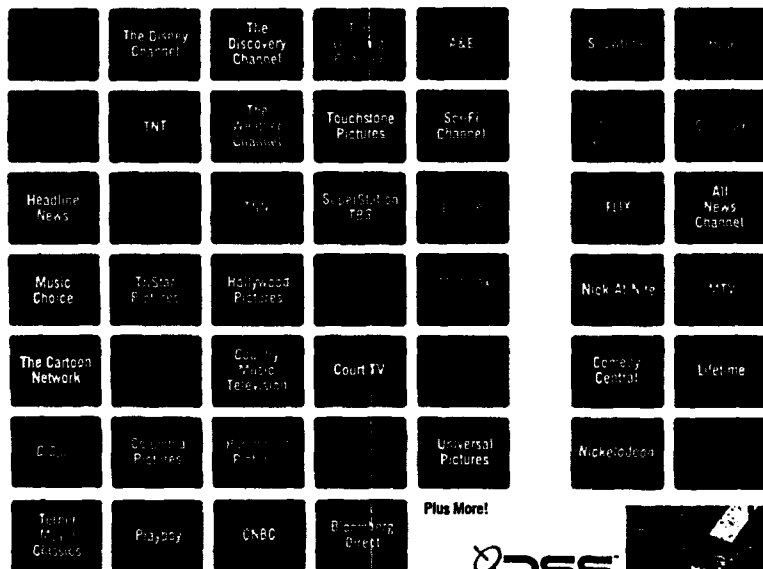
Areas Served By Cable

(2) *Served areas.* No cable operator shall enter into any exclusive contracts, or engage in any practice, activity or arrangement tantamount to an exclusive contract, for satellite cable programming or satellite broadcast programming with a satellite cable programming vendor in which a cable operator has an attributable interest or a satellite broadcast programming vendor in which a cable operator has an attributable interest, with respect to areas served by a cable operator, unless the Commission determines in accordance with paragraph (c)(4) of this section that such contract, practice, activity or arrangement is in the public interest.

EXHIBIT 4

Today's Best. Tomorrow's Classics.

The RCA DSS System offers the widest range of program choices, including your favorites.



Plus More!

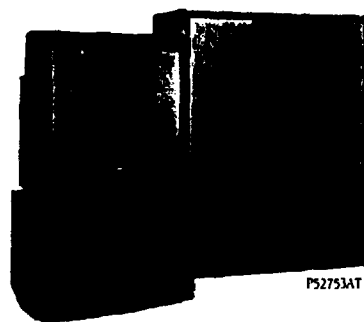


The 18" dish unobtrusively receives a high-power 120-Watt digital KU band signal, and sends it to the receiver.



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©1994 United States Satellite Broadcasting, Inc.

When Combined
With An RCA
Home Theatre™
Television,
The DSS System Raises
Home Entertainment
Excitement
To New Levels.



F35751MB
(Base Optional)



RCA

Changing Entertainment. Again.™

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10330 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46290-1024

Form DS-5027
Trademark(s) © Registered
Marca(s) Registrada(s)

The DSS™ Digital Satellite System Advantage

RCA



DSS
DIGITAL SATELLITE SYSTEM

Discover The RCA DSS Value

The RCA brand DSS™ Digital Satellite System provides great digital home entertainment value with DIRECTV and USSB programming.

The RCA DSS equipment receives everyone's basic cable favorites like ESPN and CNN, as well as premium channels like HBO, Showtime, and The Disney Channel.

But that's only the beginning. You'll get revolutionary choices from DIRECTV and USSB. This includes Direct Ticket™ pay-per-view movies and planned college and professional sports packages, as well as concerts, and cultural programming. And the revolutionary RCA DSS receiver is compatible with your existing antenna and your local cable service to allow you to receive local programming.

But the DSS advantage doesn't stop with quality programming. Capable of digital-quality broadcast images and dramatic CD-quality sound, the RCA DSS equipment provides unsurpassed sound and picture performance. And all this is made available through a small satellite dish, measuring only 18" in diameter!

Use this handy comparison chart to assist in a line-by-line comparison with your cable programming and pricing.

As You Compare, Be Sure To Consider These DSS System Advantages!

- Does your cable system offer 150+ channels?
- Are premium multiple channel services available?
 - 5 HBO Channels • 2 The Movie Channel Channels
 - 3 Cinemax Channels • 3 Showtime Channels + FLUX
- Does your system offer up to 40 pay-per-view channels?
- Is your cable system capable of digital-quality video and CD sound?
- Can your system deliver a 16 x 9 widescreen picture and HDTV?
- Can you subscribe to FLUX or Encore?

1. Quality of picture and sound are dependent upon the audio system and/or television used by consumer. Television also requires VCR input to realize full capabilities of DSS services.

2. Total capacity is subject to December 1994 availability.

3. Additional equipment may be required.

Your Present Cable System

Basic Cable Service	\$
Cable Service	
Premium Service	
HBO (5 services available?)	
Cinemax (3 services available?)	
Showtime (3 services available?)	
The Movie Channel (2 services available?)	
FLUX	
The Disney Channel	
Encore	
Playboy	
Other	
Other Basic Services (limited availability)	(Included in Basic Cable Service fee)
Court TV	Bloomberg Direct
Sci-Fi Channel	Comedy Central
Cartoon Network	All News Channel
Turner Classic Movies	
Pay-Per-View	
Equipment Charges	
Franchise Fees	
All other Fees	
Total Cable Fees	\$
Your Monthly Video Rentals	\$
Total Combined Monthly Cost	\$

Your Programming Choices

\$	Check your local cable system	Local Channels (From your antenna? From your local cable service?)
\$21.95		"Personal Choice" ESPN, A&E, CNBC, CNN, C-SPAN, The Cartoon Network, The Discovery Channel, Country Music Television, Headline News, The Learning Channel, E! Entertainment Television, Bloomberg Direct, The Nashville Network, The Family Channel, Turner Classic Movies, TNT, SuperStation TBS, Sci-Fi Channel, Court TV, USA Network, The Weather Channel
Included (up to \$119/yr value!)		The Disney Channel
Included (\$30/yr value!) Over 30 channels offered		\$2.50/month Coupon for Direct Ticket™ Pay-Per-View (Paramount Pictures, Universal Pictures, TriStar Pictures, Columbia Pictures, Touchstone Pictures, Hollywood Pictures, Miramax Films and Warner Bros.)
Included (Premium movie service)		Encore (up to 7 theme channels)
\$3.95		Prime Time 24 (ABC, CBS, NBC...restrictions may apply)
\$4.99/night \$9.95/month		Playboy
\$34.95 (1st month FREE!)		"Entertainment Plus" HBO (HBO, HBO West, HBO 2, HBO 2 West, HBO 3), Cinemax (Cinemax, Cinemax West, Cinemax 2), Showtime (Showtime, Showtime West, Showtime 2), TMC (The Movie Channel, The Movie Channel West), FLUX and "The Essentials"
\$24.95		"Showtime Plus" and "The Essentials" (Showtime, Showtime West, Showtime 2, The Movie Channel, The Movie Channel West, FLUX)
\$24.95		"HBO Plus" and "The Essentials" (HBO, HBO West, HBO 2, HBO 2 West, HBO 3, Cinemax, Cinemax West, Cinemax 2)
\$10.95	No Basic Cable Buy Thru!	Showtime (Showtime, Showtime West, Showtime 2)
\$10.95		HBO (HBO, HBO West, HBO 2, HBO 2 West, HBO 3)
\$7.95		"The Essentials" Lifetimes, Nickelodeon, Nick-at-Nite, MTV, VH-1, Comedy Central, All News Channel
\$	Total Monthly Cost	

All information and rates are subject to change. HBO and Cinemax are registered trademarks of Time Warner Entertainment Company, LP. Showtime, The Movie Channel, and FLUX are service marks of Showtime Networks Inc. MTV, Show Television, Nickelodeon/Nick At Nite, and VH-1/Nick Hits One are registered trademarks of MTV Networks, a division of Viacom International Inc. All News Channel is a trademark of (CNN) Viacom, and Court TV, Comedy Central, and registered trademarks of Viacom Partners. All trademarks are the property of their respective companies.


EXHIBIT 5

EXHIBIT 6



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**NRTC
MEMORANDUM**

TO: NRTC DBS Participant General Managers
FROM: Bob Phillips, Chief Executive Officer 
DATE: July 13, 1994
RE: Urgent Need for Letters to the FCC and Capitol Hill re: Program Access
Deadline for Action: July 29

Last week, you received a Regulatory Alert from NRTC concerning ~~our~~ immediate and critical need to make a strong impression at the FCC and on Capitol Hill in support of the Programming Access provisions of the 1992 Cable Act. NRTC has filed its comments (see attached) at the FCC. Now it's your turn to speak out on the "real life" consequences of exclusive programming agreements such as the ones signed between USSB, Time Warner and Viacom. To do so effectively, *we need you to send letters to the FCC, your Senators and Members of Congress on this topic by July 29.*

There is a great deal at stake here. The USSB agreement represents a flagrant manipulation of the intent of the 1992 cable law. It is important that we stand in unified opposition to it.

There is no doubt the USSB deal specifically affects your ability to provide your DIRECTV™ customers with the programming they want in a convenient and affordable fashion. Let the FCC and your congressional representatives know how this issue affects you in a real and tangible way.

We all have a stake in making sure the lobbyists from HBO, USSB, and other cable programmers do not convince the FCC and our friends on Capitol Hill that things are OK. Your actions are critical in bringing a grassroots reality to the legislative and regulatory process.

Your letters are also important because the FCC has changed since we initially worked on the bill. New FCC Chairman Reed Hundt, and new Commissioners Rachelle B. Chong and Susan Ness may not understand the important role you play with NRTC in rural video distribution. Your letter to Chairman Hundt, copied to Commissioners Chong and Ness, will help drive home the point.

Finally, your action will reinforce our filing at the FCC. Do not delay. To make this task easier for you, we have attached a summary of our filing, sample letters, and instructions for your letter-writing campaign. Thank you for your immediate attention.